

Amendments to the Specification:

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning on page 1, first paragraph, with the following paragraph:

The application claims the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e)[[.]] of U.S. provisional patent application number ~~60/269,957~~ 60/269,657, filed February 16, 2001.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 18 with the following paragraph:

The procedure set forth in EXAMPLE II is followed. However, an ultra-low density fused-fibrous ceramic, sometimes referred to under the trademark P.R.I.M.M., is substituted for the collagen matrix thereof. The general principles of V.A.C.[®] therapy are followed, ~~with the matrix containing pad substituted for a conventional pad.~~ During the expected duty cycle of the pad, the ~~collagen matrix~~ ultra-low density fused-fibrous ceramic is absorbed by the growing cells, so that when the pad is removed, the ~~matrix~~ ultra-low density fused-fibrous ceramic had been absorbed, and the growing cells were not disturbed. The pad is replaced, if necessary, either by a conventional pad or by a matrix containing pad, as deemed therapeutically necessary.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 4, with the following paragraph:

Many suitable bioabsorbable materials have been used for sutures, surgical implements, and the like. A small sample of these materials are set forth in the following U.S. patents, to wit: 5,997,568, issued to Lin on December 7, 1999 and the following patents issued in 1999 to Roby et al.: 5,914,387; 5,902,874 and 5,902,875. A selected one or more of these, or similar materials, are placed upon a conventional pad. The general principles of V.A.C.[®] therapy are followed, ~~with the matrix containing pad substituted for a conventional pad.~~ During the expected duty cycle of the pad, the ~~collagen matrix~~ bioabsorbable material is absorbed by the growing cells, so, that when the pad is removed, the ~~matrix~~ bioabsorbable material had been absorbed, and the growing cells were not disturbed. The pad is replaced, if necessary, either by a conventional pad or by a matrix containing pad, as deemed therapeutically necessary.

Please REPLACE the ABSTRACT with the following abstract, on the following page: